

But, could not get to
hear any sooner from our
light and wanted to know who
is killed and who was not
This is the reason I did not risk
any sooner to you was because
I could not hear any sooner from
the flight, so with these
remarks I will close, But
I am your affectionated
Brother until Death

William J. Crist

San view
L. J. Tan

h h h h
Camp at
Franklin

Franklin

March the

13th 1863

Dear Sister



I take my pen in hand to
let you know how I am
health is only tolerable good
hoping when these few lines
come to hand they may find
you all well and doing well
I will now tell you about
our fight we had in the
1st and 5th of this month

Our Brigade was ordered out. They was a Detail maid
to make the attack on the Rebels yesterday morning out of our
we drove them back the first
day and next morning we went back to the field to dig up the
bones to renew the attack we
went on about 4 miles and the killed and the news was
fight was commenced Pretty hot Brought back that they was
our men fought Brave But
The Rebels was to strong for us Company and that was
they began to flank us on the shepherd they dug up all
night and left and it was the graves they could find
But a short time till they and they found 32 in all
had our position surrounded. They could find and I
and taken prisoners what
They did not kill, I made 13 prisoners with all the rest
out to escape and get out I would of rote sooner to
if the way

The following letter was written to Merica Ann Liston by her brother, William Crist, shortly after the Battle of Thompson's Station. Isaac Liston was listed as missing at this time. He actually died March 6 in a Confederate prison of wounds received during the battle.

Camp at Franklin, Tennessee
March the 13th 1863

Dear Sister I take my pen in hand to let you know how I am my health is only tolerable good hoping when these few lines come to hand they may find you all well and doing well I will now tell you about our fight we had on the 4th and 5th of this month our brigade was ordered out to make the attack on the Rebels we drove them back the first day and next morning we went on to renew the Attack we went on about 4 miles and the fight was commenced Pretty hot our men fought Brave But the Rebels was to strong for us they began to flank us on the right and Left and it was But a short time till they had our men surrounded and taken Prisoners what they did not kill, I made out to escape and git out of the way They was a Detail maid yesterday morning out of our companies to go Back to the Battle field to Dig up the Dead and see who all was killed and the news was Brought Back that they was one man killed in our company and that was James Shepherd they dug up all the graves they could find and they found 32 in all they could find and I suppose that Isaac was taken prisoner with all the rest I wold of rote sooner to you But I could not get to hear any sooner from our fight for I wanted to know who was killed and who was not this is the reason I did not rite any sooner to you was Because I could not hear any sooner from the fight, so with these remarks I will close, But remains your affectionated (sp) Brother until Death

From .

William T. Crist

To

America Liston

he said that capt
said that he was in
his own mind for the
in the big best terms
for him and other say
as good as now as
the company
to come home to see
out of the conversation
more permitted
in our earth, I hope
exhausted and him
it. Spading is now in
the 23rd of the month

Jonathan I send a letter to you
Dear sister after very best wishes
you will inform you that I am
well hoping. I hope few times more
find. in enjoying the same. I hope
I received your first letter to day dated
is 10th and was very glad to hear from
you and to hear that you were well
and America colored. I said come back
yesterday and we was all very glad
to hear of him and he said the rest of
the day will he hear before long
but he said they had a long time

Prisoners wish us
fight as did a lovely sister
home to us. We have
Reliance at Leesville. For
an ought to in the army
to give a position
by did we miss him as
of the days and him
for the moment as then
but he will never let
our loss is his gain
ideal better off than
we would. moving rather
less because he was

well thought as by the whole company
and by the 1st. officers and men
of other companies so far as he was
acquainted you state that he wrote in
the last letter that he wrote to
you that Crepularius had to keep
his mouth shut and that Capt. Huber
said he was in danger among his
own men you wrote as the you
thought some of his men were
filled him - but I tell you
if he had any enemy in the
company he was never found
any

Franklin Tenn

May the 17th 1863

Dear Sister After my last letter to you i will inform you that i am well hoping these few lines ma find you enjoying the same blessing i received your kind letter today dated the 10th and was verrey glad to hear from you and to hear that you was well

Well America Colonel Baird (James P. Baird, Commander of the 85th Indiana Volunteers) came back yesterday and we was all verrey glad to see him and he sais the rest of the boys will be hear before long but he sais they had a heard time while they wer prisoners isek (Isaac) was killed in the fight or died shortly after and has gone home to rest we have no reason to believe otherwise for he lived as a man ought to in the army he tried as heard to live a Christian as ever any buddy did We miss him as well as the rest of the boys and him more especially for the most of them will return but he will never but our loss and your loss is his gain for he is a great deal better off than we are altho we would much rather he was hear because he was well thought of by the whole company and by boath officers and men of other companies so far as he was acquainted you stated that he wrote in the last letter that he wrote to you that a republican had to keep his mouth shut and that Capt. Puckett (Lewis Puckett, Company K Commanding Officer) said he was in danger among his own men you wrote as that you thought some of his own men killed him but i tell you if he had any enemy in the company he was never found out and i don't believe that Capt Puckett ever said that he was in danger among his own men for he allways spoke in the highest terms of him, i hear him and others say that he was as good a man as there was in the company

i would like to come home to see you and the rest of the connection but if we are never permitted to meet again on earth i hope we will meet each other and him in heaven where parting is no more

William T. Crist to America Liston

Apr 20 1877
To day with our feelings
again in a piece of harmony
well i cant write much
my hand is in a wheel so i
cant write i dont know what
to write when i could tell
what more than i can write
i got letter from gift he is
i feel to put in trust
in him for his and salute
if i lose heaven i lose all
in africa i ask about rest in your
peace pray for me that i may
hold out as long as that i may
be in so later for god and his
and for our country the best
government that god ever
gave us in earth pray that
our country may be saved
that we may have peace
for our and get home again

Burkeville (?) the Camp near Franklin

June 25, 1863

Dear Cusin through the mercies of god i am permitted this oportunity of droping you a few lins to let you no that i am well and do hope this may find you well and doing well and as well satisfied as circomstances will admite not with standeing your lonly conditon and circumstances i kno you see a loncem tyme but Marica don't grive about isic (Isaac) for he is beter off than you or mee is his is don with the trubels of this world i hope i meet him whear sorow never coms whear war and trubel ant known whear all is pice an love put your trust in god and he will bring comfort of all sorow sin or trubel and at last take us home to heaven god doeth all well i fiel to put mi trust in him for life and salvation if i loose heaven i loose all

Amarica i ask an intrest in your prear (prayers) pray for me that i may be the soldier for god and heaven and for our country the best government that god ever give man on earth pray that our country may be saved that we may have pice soon and git home again to stay with our feinds (friends) again in pice an harmony

well i cant write mutch my hand trimbels so i cant write don't kno what to write no how i could tell ahek ? more than i can write i got a ~~leter~~ from Gip he is well and well satesfied he thinks we will have pice soon i hope we will

Marica i will send a one dolar bill to you i told isec that i would help you i hadent a chance when i was to home so will send it to you now well Tompson (William Tompson Crist) is agoin to write some so i wil close good by Ben Stewart to Marica Liston

dear Sister i one time more take my pen in hand to let you no that i am well and hope thes lins may find you well Well Marica it is araining and has bin for too days and neights i was on picket last neight an i am so sleepy that i can't write mutch i thout i would let you no that i was well it is mighty shaky hear now we neglected pitching tents and ? well i will close take good care of yourself write soon next time i will tri to write more so goodby

Marica i want you to write and let me no when you git this